(a) whether it is a fact that Government had closed down its three public sector vaccine units and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has now decided to restart the production of vaccine in these units and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) on what grounds the earlier closure order has been revoked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government has not taken any decision to close down the three Public Sector Vaccine Manufacturing Units, namely, the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu and BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Chennai, Tamilnadu. The manufacturing licenses of these three Institutes were suspended by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCG(I)) in January, 2008 since they were not found in compliance with the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as provided under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945.

(b) and (c) A proposal for upgradation of the facilities at CRI Kasauli to make them GMP compliant has now been received WHO experts have examined this and have opined that this is feasible. The production of vaccines can be restarted after compliance with GMP requirements.

Shortage of post graduate seats

640. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge shortage of Post Graduate seats for medical graduates in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the actual number of seats of Post Graduates and Medical Graduates at present; and

(c) by when the P.G. seats are likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) At present approximately 11,600 seats are available in different postgraduate courses for approximately 23000 MBBS students passed out from various medical colleges across the country. Further National Board of Examination also provides nearly 5006 seats in various DNB courses annually. Thus, Post graduation facilities are available for nearly 70% of the MBBS students passing out throughout the country.

As per the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, as amended and the Regulations made thereunder, it is for the State Government to decide the need to start/increase Post Graduate (P.G.) seats in a medical college. The Central Government is giving permission for starting/increase of PG seats in a medical college based on the Essentiality Certificate given by the respective State Government and availability of infrastructural facilities.

Additional budgetary allocation for IEC activities

†641. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether additional budgetary allocations have been sought by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Information Education and Communication (I.E.C.) related activities;

(b) if so, the date on which the said proposal of demand has been received by the Union Government and the action taken on it so far; and

(c) if the amount has not been sanctioned then by when the said proposal will be accepted and the anticipated details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India through the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) allocates flexible budgetary envelopes to States on the basis of a designated formula and National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) approves the annual Programme Implementation Plans (PIP) of the States. The Annual PIP, *inter alia*, contains plan of the State for the IEC activities also. As such, the budgetary allocation for IEC is built into the overall annual Flexible Pool allocation. The PIP of Madhya Pradesh has been approved upto financial year 2008-09. The PIP for the financial year 2009-10 is under consideration. The State of Madhya Pradesh has not sought any additional budgetary allocations for IEC related activities over and above the normal allocation.

Criteria for being senior citizen under CGHS

642. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in CGHS dispensaries and hospitals a person is considered senior citizen if he is above 85 years of age;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as elsewhere a person above 65 years is considered senior citizen;

(c) whether medical officer in-charge has the discretion to decide the age of senior citizen for purpose of treatment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. No new criteria for senior citizens has been laid down for CGHS beneficiaries.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Doctor-patient ratio

†643.SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of doctors *vis-a-vis* patients in the country at present;

(b) whether this ratio is significantly lower than the prevailing global ratio; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.